



STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

1100 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. • WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3934

PHONE: (202) 371-2600 • FACSIMILE: (202) 371-2540 • www.skgf.com

LET

1631

ROBERT GREENE STEPHENS
EDWARD J. KELLY
JORGE A. GOLDSTEIN
SAMUEL L. FOX**
DAVID K.S. CORNWELL
ROBERT W. EDMOND
TRACY-GENE G. DURKIN
MICHELE A. CIMBALA
MICHAEL B. RAY
ROBERT E. SOKOHL
ERIC K. STEFFE
MICHAEL Q. LEE
STEVEN R. LUDWIG

JOHN M. COVERT
LINDA E. ALCORN
ROBERT C. MILLONIG
MICHAEL V. MESSINGER
JUDITH U. KIM
TIMOTHY J. SHEA, JR.
DONALD R. MCPHAIL
PATRICK E. GARRETT
JEFFREY T. HELVEY*
HEIDI L. KRAUS
JEFFREY R. KURIN
RAYMOND MILLIEN
PATRICK D. O'BRIEN

LAWRENCE B. BUGAISKY
CRYSTAL D. SAYLES
EDWARD W. YEE
ALBERT L. FERRO*
DONALD R. BANOWIT
PETER A. JACKMAN
MOLLY A. McCALL
TERESA U. MEDLER
JEFFREY S. WEAVER
KRISTIN K. VIDOVICH
KENDRICK P. PATTERSON
DONALD J. FEATHERSTONE
GRANT E. REED

VINCENT L. CAPUANO
JOHN A. HARROUN*
ALBERT J. FASULO II*
ELDORA ELLISON FLOYD*
W. RUSSELL SWINDELL
THOMAS C. FIALA
BRIAN J. DEL BUONO*
VIRGIL L. BEASTON*
RYAN J. STAMPER*
KAREN R. MARKOWICZ**
SUZANNE E. ZISKA**
ANDREA J. KAMAGE**
NANCY J. LEITH**

ELIZABETH J. HAANES**
MARK P. TERRY**
JOSEPH M. CONRAD, III**
DOUGLAS M. WILSON**
REGINALD D. LUCAS**
ANN E. SUMMERFIELD**
CYNTHIA M. BOUCHEZ**
HELENE C. CARLSON**
BRUCE E. CHALKER**
DUSTIN T. JOHNSON**
MATTHEW J. DOWD**

*LIMITED TO MATTERS
AND PROCEEDINGS BEFORE
FEDERAL COURTS & AGENCIES
**REGISTERED PATENT AGENT
***SENIOR COUNSEL

July 19, 2001

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

WRITER'S DIRECT NUMBER:
(202) 371-2560

INTERNET ADDRESS:
RESMOND@SKGF.COM

RECEIVED

JUL 20 2001

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application
Appl. No. 09/613,903; Filed: July 11, 2000
For: **Nucleic Acid Ladders**
Inventor: Heather J. JORDAN
Our Ref: 0942.4450001/RWE/AGL
Art Unit: 1631

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Status Inquiry Letter; and
2. Return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

Commissioner for Patents

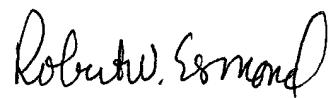
July 19, 2001

Page 2

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036. A duplicate copy of this letter is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Robert W. Esmond
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 32,893

RWE/AGL/jk

Enclosures

P:\USERS\VANGIE\0942\4450001\445-1-statusinq.ltr-071901
SKGF Rev. 4/27/00 mac